

DRAFT W2ASACT MEETING NOTES
Meeting of March 8, 2016, 9:30-12pm
DNRC, Bannack Room

Members Present:		Others Present:	
Alice Stanley, Chair	DNRC		
Mike Abrahamson	DEQ/PPA/SRF	Mark Bostrom	DNRC
Denise Cook	DNRC	Tom Erskine	Interstate Engineering
Bob Fischer	DNRC	Therese Hartman	WY Game & Fish
Julie Flynn	MBOI/INTERCAP	Rika Lashley	Morrison-Maierle
Bill Herbolich	DNRC/ADD/RDB	Jennifer Madgic	Sen. Tester's Office
Sonja Hoeglund	DNRC		
Kirk Keysor	DOC/EDR		
Paul LaVigne	DEQ/PPA/SRF		
Anna Miller	DNRC		
Gerald Paddock	DEQ		
Mark Smith	DEQ/PPA/SRF	Via Conf. Call-In:	
Pam Smith	DNRC	Steve Troendle	USDA/RD
Eric Trum	DEQ	Karen Sanchez	USDA/RD
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC	Dan Smith	USDA/RD
Gary Wiens	DEQ	Erinn Zindt	MAP

CALL TO ORDER, SIGN-IN SHEET, AGENDA CHANGES:

Alice Stanley, Chair, called the scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) to order shortly after 9:30am, on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Sign-in sheet was routed, agendas and copies of previous meetings notes made available to all those in attendance. Per Alice's request, members briefly introduced themselves, stating their affiliations. The notes from the December 9, 2015 meeting were approved and adopted.

Guest Speaker:

Mark Bostrom, DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division Administrator:

- What you need to know about Sage Grouse Consultations for Projects
 - Mark gave a short history of Montana's Sage Grouse Program and distributed a quick fact sheet and a six page history
 - There was a demonstration of the web-based mapping program (which is also explained on the quick fact sheet) called the Sage Grouse Tool
 - Prior to any state action; i.e. permitting, funding, agencies need to know whether the project location falls within Sage Grouse habitat
 - There was a discussion as to the timing of when applicants should have to consult with the Sage Grouse program or if a consultation is required unless the project is funded
 - They are in the process of developing a decision tree to address if or when a consultation is warranted

- Existing projects and projects already funded are generally grandfathered in and do not need a consultation
- The Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT) is seeking a categorical exclusion for cities, towns, and water & sewer districts
- For more information on the Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program, visit the DNRC website, contact Mark Bostrom or Carolyn Sime, Sage Grouse Program Manager

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

WORKSHOPS

- Workshops in Great Falls and Missoula were well attended
- Alice Stanley has copies of the sign-in sheets for the workshops

UNIFORM APPLICATION AND STANDARD DOCUMENTS

- Need to have a meeting about Sage Grouse notification at the planning stage
 - It is already on the species checklist but could do a supplement for this RRGL cycle
- Need to get Sage Grouse information out to engineers across the state

INTERNET WEBSITE

- This is where we could put any Sage Grouse links and requirements, program updates, workshops, and powerpoints. Send updates as needed to Lindsay Volpe

REGIONAL WATER PROJECT UPDATE (Provided by Rick Duncan, DNRC)

- **Fort Peck- Dry Prairie –**
 - *Plans for installation of the necessary structures at the WTP to remove fine-grained sediments from the raw water before it enters the plant are proceeding, with Reclamation taking the lead in the review process.
 - *The Frazer-to-Porcupine Creek main pipe segment under construction by Macon Construction concluded early in January. Work on the segment is complete. When there is electrical power to the Porcupine Creek metering pit, the pipeline will be ready to operate. The lines within the community of Frazer also need to be flushed, which their O&M staff has been reluctant to do during the winter months.
 - *Work on construction of branch service mains between Poplar and Wolf Point, which began last spring, is complete between the WTP and Poplar. Service connections have also been installed, with a total of 180 done. Branch line work between the WTP and Wolf Point has also been under way. There are over 400 service connections reported in this segment.
 - *Bids were opened in September 2015 for installation of service line mains between Poplar and Fort Kipp.
 - *Plans for the next major on-Reservation infrastructure include the mainline north from a point east of Poplar to the north Reservation boundary. That phase is under development, and will likely be bid in 2016, provided that sufficient funds are appropriated by Congress. Recent supplemental appropriations administered through Reclamation give the Tribes a total of approximately \$11.5 million for the current FY.
- Dry Prairie --** With the successful process conversion at the regional WTP allowing push of chloraminated water to users both on- and off-Reservation, Dry Prairie began receiving chloraminated water mid-July 2015, gradually replacing chlorinated water service both to towns

and rural customers. Disinfection by-product levels are down, markedly. A second quarter of DBP sampling indicates even lower levels than the previous quarter.

*Construction on the short pipeline segment between Porcupine Creek and the Town of Nashua was bid and awarded in September. Contract period was 90 days. That segment was completed by the contractor in late November, with only minor delays due to addition of several service connections north of US Hwy 2. At the December 3rd Board meeting, substantial completion was accepted by the Dry Prairie Board.

*There will be a DNRC TSRWS construction grant and a Drinking Water SRF (DW-SRF) loan in 2016 for the project, which will supplement Federal project funds, for the construction of the Valley County Area "B" segment which will serve homes west-northwest of Glasgow. Macon, the successful bidder for that project, began work the week of Thanksgiving. Completion date for that project segment is in the fall 2016. Dry Prairie's share of the conference and supplemental funds totals about \$4.5 million.

- **Rocky Boy's-North Central:** **North Central Montana Authority** – Construction on the Shelby-to-Cut Bank project segment was begun in September 2015. DNRC included language in the construction grant which required that all easements would be in place before any grant funds could be disbursed on this segment. The pipeline construction contract work proceeded well into the fall, with work from Cut Bank eastward ongoing into December. Winter shutdown occurred the week before Christmas; the contractor completed pipe installation to the location of the Ethridge Booster Pump Station (BPS), with the exception of spec'd pipe with nitrile gaskets through a zone of existing pipelines and a state Superfund site on the east edge of Cut Bank. All horizontal boring from Shelby to Cut Bank was also completed. The pipeline contractor is scheduled to remobilize this week, with installation of the nitrile gasket pipe being the first priority. The successful bidder for the second schedule including the Cut Bank metering station, standpipe and Ethridge BPS began work the week of February 29th.
- **Dry-Redwater:** In June 2015 a bill for Federal authorization of both the Musselshell-Judith regional project and Dry-Redwater regional project was introduced by Senator Daines, with support from Senator Tester. Rep. Zinke introduced a companion bill in the House late in Calendar 2015. There have been no recent updates on work in Congress, but news on current status of the bills is expected by the end of this week.

*Through the Sidney South project Dry Redwater Authority in September 2014 began providing water supply and limited sewer service to properties south of Sidney. DRWA owns and operates the water and sewer mains outside of the Sidney city limits. Water from City of Sidney supplies mostly commercial lots south and southwest of town. Sewage collection for a limited number of lots is treated at Sidney's wastewater treatment facilities. Further water extensions are planned by the Authority, including to an area known as East Yellowstone, with financial assistance from Richland County for engineering services. Plans and specifications have been under review by DEQ. A uniform application for Treasure State Regional Water System (TSRWS) grant funds has been evaluated by DNRC, and up to \$400,000 in grant funds will be available, pending receipt of additional information requested, and securing of easements for pipeline. The project may be advertised for bids as early as May or June of this year.
- **Central Montana** (Musselshell-Judith project): As earlier reported, the draft Feasibility Study Report submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation in 2013 reached the end of an historic review period earlier in 2015. The Benefit-to-Cost ratio exceeds 1.0, and the Authority has been notified that its study complies with the provisions of the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 and rules

adopted relating to same. As noted, the Authority has been included in the federal authorization bill introduced by Senators Daines and Tester, and by Representative Zinke in the companion bill in the House.

*The 2015 Legislature authorized TSRWS funding of a ground water monitoring project in the Judith Basin by the Authority, based on an RDGP grant application. A grant agreement is now in place. The monitoring project will begin in 2016, and will run for 3 years. Bids were recently opened on a proposed extended pump test planned for the test well constructed northwest of Judith Gap in 2012.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES

- See Program Updates, Jennifer Madgic

EMERGENCY PROJECTS

- Big Sky –Yellowstone Club
 - Pipe failure caused a wastewater spill and erosion, filling the West Fork of the Gallatin with sediment

TRIBAL PROJECTS

- See Regional Water Project update

PROGRAM UPDATES

- **Julie Flynn**: Interest rates are at 1.25%
- **Mark Smith**: Are in the process of the next round of federal funding so get your projects in there
- **Anna Miller**: SRF currently working with 16 projects, many are ready to go to construction; distributed Time Magazine article about the Flint, Michigan water crisis
- **Pam Smith**: Retiring on March 31; we are in the process of hiring contractors to help review RRGL applications, could be quite a few RRGL applications this cycle because many did not get funded last time; planning grants round 3 closed Jan 22, 2016, there is some money left but will wait and see what revenue comes in
- **Jennifer Madgic**: We anticipated 5 million in WRDA funds but got only 2.5 million from Army Corps of Engineers; funding went to Bainville, Bitterroot CD, Butte, Fergus CD, Gallatin Gateway, Harlowton, Roundup, Sanders County, South Winds W&S, Sweet Grass CD and Terry
- **Steve Troendle**: There is a \$20 million reserve and we are waiting to see what we can get out of that; will do an Earth Day event; there is a new RD application portal called RD Apply is good if you have a small number of funders
- **Tom Erskine**: Eastern Montana Oil & Gas slowdown is now affecting local businesses, engineering firms are putting in more applications now
- **Lindsay Volpe**: Getting ready for our RRGL application cycle
- **Kirk Keysor**: Our grant program is now an open cycle. There is a pre-application with not as many requirements in order to see if project is competitive. Still have \$12 million to be used for infrastructure if there is a special need, job losses. Match is 50:50.
- **Paul LaVigne**: Had an Incident Command Team at the Big Sky wastewater spill, looking at different options to fix the wastewater system
- **Eric Trum**: With Lindsay's help, is coordinating agency funding for larger natural resource projects (Natural Resource Grant Working Group)
- **No Updates At This Time:**

- **Bob Fischer, Mike Abrahamson, Karen Sanchez, Dan Smith, Erinn Zindt, Bill Herbolich, Sonja Hoeglund**

LOGISTICS OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 9:30-Noon

Host: DNRC (TBD - DEQ?)

MEETING ADJOURNED by Alice Stanley, Chair, at 11:40 am